

Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lieutenant Governor

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Department of Public Safety*

*One Ashburton Place, Room 1301*

*Boston, Massachusetts 02108-1618*

*Phone (617) 727-3200*

*Fax (617) 727-5732*

*TTY (617) 727-0019*

*[www.mass.gov/dps](http://www.mass.gov/dps)*

Kevin M. Burke  
Secretary

Thomas G. Gatzunis, P.E.  
Commissioner

April 4, 2008

**RE: Building Safety Week – May 5 through 11, 2008**

Dear Editor:

America will celebrate *Building Safety Week* from May 5 through 11. The theme is "*Building Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play*". The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a proud participant in this year's activities.

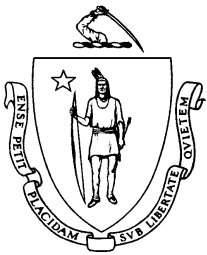
First observed in 1980, *Building Safety Week* annually raises public awareness of critical safety issues affecting every person, regardless of age or occupation. These entail the structural soundness of the buildings where we live and work, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. For example, as recently reported in the news, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst is scheduled to construct a new Integrated Science Building. The building will provide 155,000 gross square feet of new space to forging a new model for science teaching and research focused on the integration of the life, chemical and physical sciences. This innovative concept will bring together the teaching of basic and advanced courses in chemistry and life sciences provide flexible research laboratories that support interdisciplinary research teams and enhance the interaction between researchers and students, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels.<sup>1</sup>

Department of Public Safety inspectors, plan reviewers and others in the commonwealth will work to ensure the safety of all who work and attend classes in this new structure and, together with municipal inspectors, will work to ensure the public safety in all structures in which we live, work, attend school, worship and play. These dedicated officials provide the first line of defense against building disasters. They are silent but vigilant guardians who work daily to ensure safety in the built environment.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a member of the International Code Council (ICC). Educational materials are available for schools and the community at large through the ICC; for example, brochures about flood cleanup, mold prevention, green building and preparing for natural disasters. The public is encouraged to participate and learn more about the essential safety work of the Department of Public Safety and *Building Safety Week* by visiting our website at [mass.gov/dps](http://mass.gov/dps).

Sincerely;

Thomas G. Gatzunis  
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety



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## **Building Safety Week**

May 5 through 11, 2008

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### *Building Safety Where You Live, Work and Play*

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When you enter a house or other building, most likely you're not thinking about whether it is properly constructed and safe. Fortunately, your local safety experts think about building safety and fire prevention every day. To help raise awareness of building safety, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Public Safety is celebrating ***Building Safety Week*** from May 5 through 11. Across the nation, communities will promote the use and understanding of building safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property. The theme is "***Building Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play***".

"The important work we do is often overlooked until a catastrophe occurs." "When building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings during and after construction, we help to ensure that the places where you live, learn, work and play are safe" reminds Thomas G. Gatzunis, Department of Public Safety Commissioner.

Building safety and fire prevention codes address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

"Public safety is our number one concern," said Commissioner Gatzunis. "During ***Building Safety Week*** and all year long, building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect you and your community throughout the commonwealth.

***Building Safety Week***, first observed in 1980, is sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC), a membership organization dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, of which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is an active member. The public is encouraged to participate and learn more about the essential work of the Department of Public Safety and ***Building Safety Week*** by visiting our website at [mass.gov/dps](http://mass.gov/dps).